

Pakistan) has undergone some changes over the years, owing to the release of water through a *nullah* to reduce the salinity of some land under the irrigation system. Because of this, some waterbirds (including both the greater and lesser flamingos) have extended their movements to that area. The collared pratincole may also move further southwards into Kutch from there.

The second noteworthy bird-record for Kutch was of a male blueheaded rock thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* (Vigors) seen by SNV near Dhonsa jheel (Bhuj environs) on January 27, 1985. The second sight record of this species in Kutch was by Fakirmahamad A. Turk, at his fruit farm at Dhrab village, west of Mundra, c. 45 km south of Bhuj, on March 9, 1999. He observed the bird till March 23, 1999; took coloured photographs (it was a male) and showed them to MKH.

This bird breeds along the Himalayan

ranges and spends the winter in the Indian peninsula, but there are few records of its occurrence around Kutch. Though Dharmakumarsinhji lists it in his BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA, no specific reference is made therein to its presence in that region. Ripley (1982) mentions scarce cold weather records in southern Rajasthan and Gujarat ('including Kathiawar'). On the other hand, Roberts (1992) considers it a scarce winter visitor to Sindh. Thus, the blueheaded rock thrush is a vagrant in Kutch, not recorded before.

July 30, 1999

M.K. HIMMATSINHJI

Jubilee Ground

Bhuj, Kutch 370 001, Gujarat, India.

S.N. VARU

Juna Vas, Madhapur

Taluka Bhuj, Kutch,

Gujarat, India.

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12. OCCURRENCE OF THE CEYLON FROGMOUTH *BATRACHOSTOMUS MONILIGER* (FAMILY PODARGIDAE) IN RADHANAGARI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MAHARASHTRA

On November 21, 1998, I visited Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolhapur district, Maharashtra along with my friends. We were moving along one of the roads in the Dajipur region of the Sanctuary, leading to the core zone. The forest is of the west coast tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen type. At about 1120 hrs, we saw a large amount of bird droppings on the road, under a medium sized tree, so I thought that there may be a bird nest

or roosting place. We started looking for the bird and located it soon, perched perfectly camouflaged on a small branch about 4 to 5 m above the ground. As it was disturbed, the bird flew off and sat on another branch of the same tree. I approached the bird and was able to take a few photographs from about 2 m away. As I moved closer, the bird started moving its head like an owlet, opened its large mouth, and then flew away into the nearby jungle.

On referring to literature, I realized that the bird was a Ceylon frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*).

I continued my observations and noticed a small round nest, placed in the fork of a small terminal branch. The cryptic colour of the nest was similar to that of the branch and a half grown nestling was present in the nest. When closely approached, the nestling started opening its mouth.

The Ceylon frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*) is one of the least known species of the evergreen forest biotope of the Western Ghats. The species was recorded earlier by Dr. Sálim Ali in Kerala (1935) who described it as a little known, nocturnal species, seldom seen during daytime. It was recorded again by Vijayan (1979) and Sugathan (1981) in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kannan (1994) recorded it for the first time from Tamil Nadu and Renee Borges (1986) recorded it from Kanara, North Karnataka. The present record extends its range further north.

The distributional range of the Ceylon frogmouth extends from the southern heavy rainfall tracts of the Western Ghats, from c. 15° N in North Kanara district, south to Trivandrum

district, Kerala, (Ali 1970). According to Sugathan (1981), the distributional range of the Ceylon frogmouth is believed to be from the wet evergreen forests of Karnataka state in the Western Ghats to the southern tip of the country in Tamil Nadu, and Sri Lanka. The altitudinal limit of this bird is believed to be 1,200 m above msl.

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13. JUNGLE CROW *CORVUS MACRORHYNCHOS* AND ITS INGENUITY WITH DRY ROTI

On May 26, 1999 I was sitting near an artificial water hole in Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan. During the afternoon, the

movements of animals and birds had slackened. At 1210 hrs, a jungle crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) came and perched on the branch